



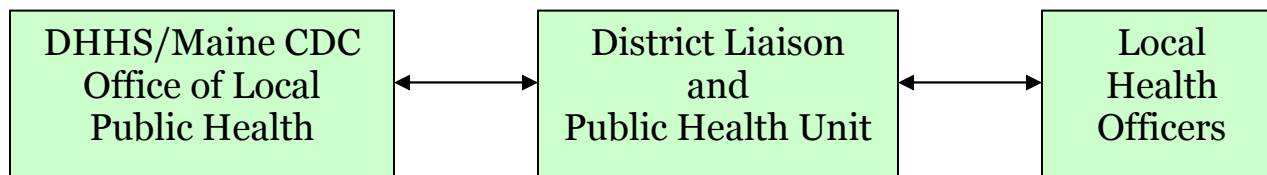
Department of Health and Human Services
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
286 Water Street
11 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
Tel. (207) 287-8016
Fax (207) 287-8058; TTY (800) 646-0215

Local Health Officers in Maine

In 1885, Maine legislature authorized Maine municipalities to establish local Boards of Health, each headed by a Local Health Officer (LHO).

Every municipality/town is required by law to employ a Local Health Officer and LHOs are also responsible for adjoining area designated as unorganized.

| Duties | Activities |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health resource for community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report communicable diseases |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Problem solver to resolve complaints | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examine nature of public complaints |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate/Enforce complaints | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With consent, inspect and examine premises where filth and conditions pose a public health threat |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforce public health safety laws | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep record of complaints, investigation and resolution |



What issues can involve Local Health Officers in their town:

As lead town official

Bathing beaches
Cemeteries
Landlord-Tenant
Removal private nuisance
Removal private nuisance (health)
Unclean premises

Assist other town officials

Auto junkyards (CEO)
Dangerous Buildings (CEO)
Malfunctioning septic (LPI)
Mobile home parks (CEO)
Removal of dead animals (ACO)
Report adult/child abuse (DHHS)

How Should the LHO Contribute to the Public Health System?

- Keep select board updated: Clarify roles and statutes
- Collaborate with Code Enforcement Officer, Local Emergency Management/Planning Officer, and Local Plumbing Inspector
- Get involved with town planning
- Know about your neighbors, especially those who are vulnerable (seniors, migrant workers, those living alone, children, those with special health issues)
- Know about health care options: nearby hospitals and health centers, private providers, transportation
- Support state and district wide public health and emergency preparedness efforts